(d) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations themeselves. Ministry of Tourism extends central financial assistance to States/UTs for tourism related projects including projects for development of Buddhist tourism, based on the proposals received from them in accordance with the scheme guidelines subjects to availability of funds and *inter-se* priority. Assistance is provided under the following schemes:—

- Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits;
- Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects;
- Fairs and Festivals (Domestic Campaign);
- Computerization and Information Technology.

During the Tenth Five Year Plan, amount of Rs. 7235.39 lakh and Rs. 4280.44 lakh were sanctioned to Governments of Orissa and Jharkhand respectively for tourism related projects.

To facilitate development of tourism in a systematic and wholistic manner, the Ministry of Tourism had commissioned 20-Year Perspective Plans for States/Union Territories at the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan. These perspective plans, which give action plans for tourism development in the short term and long term, were sent to the State/UTGovernment to guide them in initiating action for development and promotion of tourism.

Tourism circuits in Tamil Nadu

4281. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the heritage monuments and the tourism circuits in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Central Government made any assistance to the State for the development of those monuments and circuits during each of the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and amount spent thereon; and

(d) the achievements made in development of those monuments/sites/circuits in the State?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATIAMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations themselves. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance every year for the Product/Infrastructure development of tourist destinations/circuits including heritage monuments. Project proposals which are complete as per guidelines, are appraised on the basis *of inter-se* priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head during the concerned year. However, implementation and maintenance of the projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism is the responsibility of the State Government. Ministry of Tourism monitors physical and financial progress of the sanctioned projects through site visits and review meetings from time-to-time.

During the Tenth Plan, projects worth Rs. 10,259.84 lakh were sanctioned for the development and promotion of tourism in Tamil Nadu, which include the following projects for monuments at World Heritage sites in the State:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No	Name of the project	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Development of Mamallapuram Phase I (Shore temple area and S-Rathas area)	628.51
2.	Floodlighting of Brihadeeswarar temple at Thanjavur	16.50
3.	Floodlighting of Iravatheeswarar temple at Dharasuram	24.05
4.	Development of Mamallapuram (Phase II)	411.15
5.	Introduction of audio guide facilities at Mamallapuram	88.04
6.	Introduction of audio guide facilities at Thanjavur, Dharasuram, Gangaikonda Cholapuram	27.60
7.	Sound & Light show at Thanjavur	150.00

Photo Card for Indian tourists visiting Nepal

†4282. SHRISHREEGOPAL WAS: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has offered a proposal regarding photo cards for Indian tourists;

(b) whether this would be applicable on land route also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATIKANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) According to the understanding reached in the Home Secretary level talks between Governments of Nepal and India held on June 18, 1998, citizens of both the countries are required to possess photo IDs while travelling by air between India and Nepal.

No agreement has so far been reached between both the Governments regarding the requirement of Photo Identity Card while travelling by land routes between India and Nepal.

Foreign tourists visiting world heritage centres

4283. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the number of foreign tourists visiting the World Heritage Centres in India has been decreasing drastically;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made/steps being taken to attract foreign tourists to the said places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) As per the tickets sold at die Centrally protected World Heritage monuments under the jurisdiction of Archaeological Survey of India, die number of foreign visitors to these monuments in 2007 was 2.09 million as compared to 1.73 million in 2006.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.